

Travelers Rest, (Now Jarrett Manor)  
Near Toccoa, Stevens County, Georgia.  
/PH

GA  
HABS No. 14-5

HABS  
GA  
129-Toccoa  
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District No. 14

Historic American Buildings Survey  
P. Thornton Marye, District Officer  
62 Bartow St., N.W., Atlanta, Georgia

HABS  
GA

129-Toccoa

TRAVELERS REST  
or  
Jarrett Manor  
Near Toccoa, Stephens County  
Georgia

Owner: Mrs. Mary Jarrett White.

Date of Erection: 1784 (see following page); about 1782 (see drawings);  
addition, 1820 (see drawings).

Architect and Builder: No record.

Present Condition:

Number of Stories: Two.

Materials of Construction: Wood.

Other Existing Records: See text.

Additional Data: See following pages.

TO: PHOTOCOPIATION SERVICE

DATA NOT CONTROLLED AND NOT GUARANTEED  
BY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

TRAVELERS REST  
or  
Jarrett Manor  
Near Toccoa, Stephens County  
Georgia

HISTORICAL NOTES:

The southern part of the house as far as the central chimney was built in 1784 (about 1782<sup>1</sup>) by Joseph Walton, a pioneer of that section. The addition to the north was erected in 1820.

The building was known as Travelers Rest and was for many years used as a stage coach inn. There are loopholes in the outside walls of the attic, said to have been used in repelling attacks by Indians. Georgian Homes and Landmarks<sup>2</sup> states that the "fearful war whoops of the Indians were often heard as the Cherokees moved forward to the attack. It was on this spot that a family by the name of Walton were attacked [scalped] and almost all were massacred. In the attic on each side of the chimney are two holes where the inhabitants were wont to watch for the approach of marauding red men. "

The place was purchased in 1820 by Dr. Deveroux Jarrett, an Episcopal clergyman, by whom additions were made. It is now owned and occupied by Mrs. Mary Jarrett White, "charming and gracious".<sup>3</sup>

From original data by  
P. Thornton Marye and  
revised, as shown, by  
Henry C. Forman, 1936.  
Original sheet in field  
notebook.

<sup>1</sup> See Historic American Buildings Survey drawings of this project.

<sup>2</sup> By the Southern Features Syndicate of Atlanta (1929), Annie Howard, Editor, page 22.

<sup>3</sup> Same.

HABS  
GA  
129. Toccoa  
1-

TRAVELERS REST  
or  
Jarrett Manor  
Near Toccoa, Stephens  
County  
Georgia

ARCHITECTURAL NOTES:

This two storey frame house is over one hundred twenty five feet long. The walls are of long leaf pine, weatherboarded on the outside and with horizontal boards rebated together on the inside. The ceilings are also boarded.<sup>1</sup> The hardware was made in England.

The foundation is stone; likewise the north chimney, except the top. Both chimneys are freestanding. The small windows on the second floor indicate the early type of house of which this is an example.

By Henry Chandler Forman  
March 26, 1936

<sup>1</sup> See notes on Sheets 1, 2, of the Historic American Buildings Survey drawings of this project.

DATA NOT CONTROLLED AND NOT GUARANTEED  
BY LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

# TRAVELER'S REST

OR

## JARRETT MANOR

GA,  
129-Toccoa  
1-



Located on U.S. 123 six miles east of Toccoa, Ga.

**THE GEORGIA HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION**

# TRAVELER'S REST

## OR JARRETT MANOR



Frontier fort and stagecoach inn, scene of an Indian massacre, post office and hospitable plantation home — all are roles played by Jarrett Manor. Once known as "Traveler's Rest," it is almost certainly the oldest building still standing in northeast Georgia.

Built to a height of two stories over a huge cobblestone basement, this pioneer stronghold stretches 100 feet in length and 30 in depth. In the basement are kitchen, wine cellar, and storerooms; the main floor above is divided into five large rooms and five small ones, the latter apparently intended for valets. One of the two large halls still has coathook pegs sunk into its walls, and of the six upstairs rooms the "tramp" room is still isolated from the other five. In this room transients who could not pay for a night's lodging were allowed to sleep, but they were locked up securely for the protection of paying guests.

Testifying to the frontier's ever-present dangers are the Manor's twenty-seven massive doors, hung on hinges of wrought iron and strong enough to withstand a battering ram. Special locks bear the imprint of a London foundry; someone has commented that the outside door keys were themselves large enough to serve as tomahawks. There are six towering chimneys, one built entirely of stone. Inside walls are paneled with walnut and chestnut, now exceedingly scarce.

Some of the early furniture is still in place; on display are trundle and four-posted canopied beds, and a cradle made from a hollow log. Twenty feet from the house and connected by an overhead walkway is a two-story loom-house where silkworms were bred and silk was loomed; a few mulberry trees, planted for the benefit of the silkworms, still grow in the yard. In what was once a slave cabin numerous Indian relics dug from a mound on the plantation are displayed.

The central section of Traveler's Rest was built in 1784 by Major Jesse Walton, Revolutionary soldier and Indian fighter, political leader and founder of Jonesborough, the first town in Tennessee. During the Revolution, Major Walton settled on the Nolachucky River in present-day East Tennessee. Among his neighbors was Colonel John Sevier. After the Battle of Augusta in 1780, Elijah Clark led a band of refugee women and children from Georgia into the Watauga Valley where some were cared for at the home of Mrs. Walton. Following the Revolution, Walton settled in Georgia on the Tugaloo River and was among the early representatives of Franklin County to the Georgia General Assembly.

Plagued by marauding Indians, Major Walton several times reported livestock stolen and appealed for protection to his old comrades, Generals Elijah Clark and John Sevier. In 1789, while Indian Commissioners waited in North Carolina for Cherokee negotiators who never appeared, a band of Indians attacked settlers in the Tugaloo Valley. According to tradition, a party led by Walton barricaded itself within the Manor; the defenders are supposed to have stood off the savages for four days and nights, only to be overcome, slain, and scalped in the end. In the yard at the Manor are graves of four children and two adults, who, according to legend, were Jesse Walton, his wife, and his four children.

Other accounts, however, tell a different story. Some say that Walton sent his family to a neighbor's farm for safety, and that the graves in the yard are, except for that of Major Walton himself, those of travelers who had sought safety behind the walls of the Manor. Still another version of the story maintains that Walton was ambushed by Indians as he tended crops on the plantation. In any event, his death is confirmed by Indian agent Joseph Martin, who wrote from Tugaloo (the Manor's postal address) that Walton had been shot during an Indian attack. "Jesse Walton lies at my elbow and will not survive the day," the letter said. Major Walton left behind "a record of essential honor and true worth that should not be permitted to slip into oblivion by the Westerners whom he served in the stressful days of 1777-1784," as Tennessee historian Samuel C. Williams has written.

Jesse Walton also left behind an impressive estate comprising several hundred acres of good land, twenty-two slaves, many cattle, horses, hogs, and sheep, and valuable household furnishings and farming implements. But after his death his heirs' attempts to secure these properties were largely frustrated by legal difficulties; after much litigation Traveler's Rest was sold in 1818 to James Rutherford Wyly, owner of several north Georgia plantation sites. It was then purchased by Devereaux Jarrett, "richest man in the Tugaloo Valley," though the Wyly family appears to have maintained ties with the site for a number of years thereafter.

Devereaux Jarrett had come to the Tugaloo country as a youth by way of Oconee County, South Carolina, and Wilkes County, Georgia, where his father, a Revolutionary captain under Marion, had Revolutionary grants. In the Franklin County area young Devereaux showed shrewd business sense and accumulated a great deal of land. He planted, worked slaves, built roads, churches, and bridges, and made additions to both ends of Jarrett Manor, strengthening it against any recurrence of Indian hostilities. As traffic increased on the road past the Manor, Jarrett opened it to the public as a facility combining tavern, trading post, and post office. The Jarrett account books, which doubled as hotel registers, still bear the names of illustrious travelers. G. W. Featherstonehaugh, English scientist and author, was a guest in 1837 and reported: "... I got an excellent breakfast of coffee, ham, chicken, good bread and butter, honey and plenty of good new milk for a quarter of a dollar. The landlord cultivated an extensive farm, and there was a fine bottom of good land near the house. He was a quiet, intelligent, well behaved man, a great admirer of Mr. C. [Calhoun], and seemed anxious to do what was obliging and proper, more from good feeling than for the poor return he chose to take for his good fare. What charming country this would be to travel in, if one was sure of meeting with such nice clean quarters once a day!" John C. Calhoun was himself a frequent visitor. Joe Brown, wartime governor of Georgia, spent his wedding night at the inn, and during the war many Confederate officers and men stopped over with the Jarrett family.

Devereaux Jarrett married twice, to sisters living in Buncombe County, North Carolina. Many prominent Georgians are related to him.

Jarrett Manor was purchased in July 1955 by the State of Georgia and the Jarrett Manor Foundation of Toccoa from Mrs. Mary Jarrett White, a granddaughter of Devereaux Jarrett. Dr. W. H. Good served as chairman of the Foundation. The property was deeded to the State and has been operated since as one of the historical shrines of the Georgia Historical Commission. Miss Mabel Ramsay, a Jarrett descendant, is hostess. The building is open to visitors seven days a week for a small admission charge for maintenance and improvement.

In 1964, under the provisions of the Historic Sites Act of August 21, 1935, Traveler's Rest (Jarrett Manor) was designated a Registered National Historic Landmark by the United States Department of the Interior. This signal honor is reserved for sites possessing exceptional value in commemorating and illustrating the history of the United States of America.





## THE GEORGIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Georgia Historical Commission was created in 1951 within the Department of the Secretary of State. The members and secretary are appointed by the Secretary of State, Ben W. Fortson, Jr. The duties and powers of the Commission are to promote and increase knowledge and understanding of the history of Georgia from earliest times to the present; to promote and publicize historical resources of the State; to coordinate its objectives with similar agencies; to cooperate and counsel with local organizations for historical purposes. In addition to maintaining historic sites, the Commission has erected historical markers over the State, that Georgia's past may be known in detail to residents and tourists.

Members of the Commission are: Joseph B. Cumming of Augusta, Chairman; Beverly M. DuBose, Jr., Atlanta; Milton L. Fleetwood, Cartersville; Dr. A. R. Kelly, Athens; Alexander A. Lawrence, Savannah. The Secretary is Mrs. Sidney B. Jewett, Decatur; Franklin Fenenga of Cartersville is Director of Museums.

### HISTORIC SHRINES IN THE CUSTODY OF THE COMMISSION

- CHEHAW INDIAN MONUMENT, Memorial to a friendly Indian town, Ga. 195, 3 miles north of Lcesburg.
- CONFEDERATE NAVAL MUSEUM (GUNBOAT MUSCOGEE), 4th Street just west of US 27 in Columbus.
- EAGLE TAVERN, Stagecoach stop and inn, US 129, US 441 at Watkinsville.
- ETOWAH MOUNDS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREA, Indian ceremonial center, west of US 411 and US 41 at Cartersville.
- FORT KING GEORGE, in 1721 the southernmost English outpost; prior to that the site of a Spanish Mission, on the Altamaha River, east of US 17 at Darien.
- FORT McALLISTER, Confederate fort for defense of Savannah, 10 miles east of US 17 at Richmond Hill.
- CRAWFORD W. LONG MEMORIAL MUSEUM, honoring first doctor to use ether as an anesthetic (in 1842), US 129 at Jefferson.
- MACKAY HOUSE, Revolutionary shrine, 1822 Broad Street in Augusta.
- MIDWAY COLONIAL MUSEUM, Memorial to founders of Georgia's "Cradle of Liberty," US 17 at Midway.
- NEW ECHOTA, Last eastern capital town of the Cherokee Nation, north of Calhoun, on Ga. 225, 2 miles east of US 41.
- NEW HOPE CHURCH MONUMENT, Important battle site of the War Between the States, Ga. 92, 4 miles northeast of US 278 at Dallas.
- TRAVELER'S REST—JARRETT MANOR, Pioneer home and inn, US 123, 6 miles East of Toccoa.
- TROUP TOMB, Restored tomb of Georgia's original "State's Righter" who defied a President, 8 miles west of Soperton off Ga. 46.
- VANN HOUSE, Restored finest home in the Cherokee Nation, Ga. 225, US 76 at Spring Place.
- WASHINGTON-WILKES HISTORICAL MUSEUM, Confederate Museum and antebellum home, US 78, US 278, US 378 in Washington.

For further information, please write

Georgia Historical Commission  
116 Mitchell Street, S.W.  
Atlanta 3, Georgia